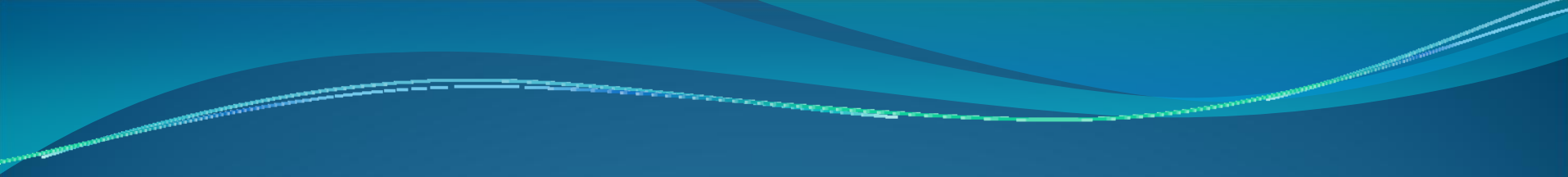


Trans Sexual Affects in Contemporary Trans Erotica

Dr Zowie Davy
School of Health and Social Care
University of Lincoln

- 
1. Introduction
 2. The analytical approach
 3. Medical restraints
 4. Learning new tricks in transgender studies
 5. A becoming language
 6. Extending sexual scripts with affects from bodily aesthetics
 7. Conclusion

Introduction

- World Professional Association of Transgender Health's *Standards of Care*
- American Psychiatric Association's *DSM*
- World Health Organization's *ICD10*
- *All assert what is correct sexual development*

Introduction

- Blank, H., & Kaldera, R. (Eds.). (2002). *Best Transgender Erotica*. Cambridge: Circlet Press.
- Christian, M. (Ed.). (2006). *Transgender erotica: Trans Figures*. New Yorks: Harrington Park Press.
- Queen, C., & Schimel, L. (Eds.). (1997). *PoMoSexuals: Challenging Assumptions about Gender and Sexuality*. San Francisco: Cleis Press.
-

The analytical approach

- I foreground transsexual/transgender bodily aesthetics
- Bodily aesthetics: appearance, feel, smell, touch, taste and so on....
- I favour bodily aesthetics over gender identity per se

The analytical approach

- Do not have to add up to a 'fully formed and settled subject' (Crawford, 2008: 141)
- 'the process of leaving home, of altering your habits, of learning new tricks' (Crawford, 2008: 133).

Medical restraints

- The 'true transsexual' must perform a de-eroticized (and heterosexualized) forms of transsexualism
- Danger of being diagnosed with hyper-sexualized Autogynephillia, Autoandrophillia, Fetishistic transvestism
- Trans people often have undisclosed 'desirous excesses' (Bataille, 1985)

Medical restraints

- [o]n the one hand it is a *machinic assemblage* of bodies, of actions and passions, an intermingling of bodies reacting to one another: on the other hand it is a *collective assemblage of enunciation*, of acts and statements, of intercorporeal transformations attributed to bodies [...] the assemblage has *territorial sides*, or *reterritorialized sides*, which stabilize it and *cutting edges of deterritorialization*, which carry it away (Deleuze & Guattari, 1987: 97-98 emphasis in original).

Medical restraints

- I faithfully reported each foray in heterosexuality to the hospital's noncommittal therapist, desperate to be the good patient upon whom she would confer surgery when my waiting time was up. I finally informed her that I could not be straight [and] that the only thing that gave me somewhat limp, estrogen, impaired erections were other women (Wilchins, 1997a: 142).

Medical restraints

- Social and medical norms “shapes which bodies one ‘can’ legitimately approach as would be lovers and which one [you] cannot” (Ahmed, 2006: 91).

Medical restraints

- “As she pulled herself close to me, I felt the flat muscular chest up against my back, in addition to the unmistakable lean hardness of a man against my buttocks, I gasped. A she-male. I was so incredibly aroused” (Rosenkrans, 2006: 199)

Learning new tricks in transgender studies

- Political shift from 'transsexual' to 'transgender'
- [create] bodily effects that disrupt or denaturalize heteronormatively constructed linkages between an individual's anatomy at birth, a non-consensually assigned gender category, psychical identifications with sexed body images and or sexed subject positions, and the performance of specifically gendered social,, sexual, or kinship functions (Stryker, 1998: 149).

Learning new tricks in transgender studies

- ‘wringing the turkey’s neck’, the ritual of penile masturbation just before surgery,’ [which she claims is the most] ‘secret of secret traditions’ (Stone, 2006 [1991]: 228).

A becoming language

- Increasing...Rocky's own excitement sent a shiver up from his old genitals, the ones he'd retained behind the dildo. He didn't know what a man would have felt, but this was good, and it propelled him to buck harder [...] he kissed her on her shoulder, a lingering kiss he knew tickled and scratched from his recent boyish beard (Christian, 2002: 89)

A becoming language

“ripping up from a place I hadn’t found before” (Cait, 2006: 106).

“it felt like a fluid shame had been given permission to escape out of my body. It felt so good, I felt so clean, and I felt so free (Rosenkrans, 2006: 70).

“for a longtime after that fuck, I knew I mattered in the world. I knew I had something good about me [...] my counterpart was real and not some insane figment of my damaged sexual fantasies (Califia, 2006: 198)

“my daily voice, my daily body, my daily fears. I am changing; we are dancing. We have broken through [...] and I wondered if I would ever break through, as I wandered through one-night stands and short-time lovers” (Wilchins, 1997: 144).

“I am filled with a kind of wonder now, my body showing me things novel and unsuspected” (Wilchins, 1997: 147).

A becoming language

- “erotic deployment of the body, [...] its prosthetic extension [is used] for the purposes of a reciprocal erotic phantasy” (Butler, 2004: 142-143).

A becoming language

- ‘creativity and playfulness’
- ‘I fucked his pussy with the dildo and gave his dick a hand job while he vigorously frigged his clitoris. It was so far out to see a man frig his clit. When he came, it sounded like a woman’s orgasm, but with a man’s voice. He was, of course, capable of multiple orgasms’ (Sprinkle, 2006: 20)



Conclusion

- I argue we must learn from these cultural productions and precisely analyze the aesthetic affects of trans sexuality before we become blind to the polymorphousness of trans sexualities.

Selected References

- Ahmed, S. (2006). *Queer Phenomenology: Orientations, Objects, Others*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Bataille, G. (1987 [1962]). *Eroticism*. London: Marian Boyars.
- Belton, T. (2002). Doppler. In H. Blank & R. Kaldera (Eds.), *Best Transgender Erotica* (pp. 117-125). Cambridge: Circlet Press.
- Blank, H., & Kaldera, R. (Eds.). (2002). *Best Transgender Erotica*. Cambridge: Circlet Press.
- Braidotti, R. (1994). Toward a new nomadism: Feminist Deleuzian tracks; or metaphysics and metabolism. In C. Boundas & D. Olkowski (Eds.), *Gilles Deleuze and the theater of philosophy* (pp. 157-186). New York: Routledge.
- Christian, M. (Ed.). (2006). *Transgender erotica: Trans Figures*. New Yorks: Harrington Park Press.
- Crawford, L. C. (2008). Transgender Without Organs? Mobilizing a Geo-Affective Theory of Gender Modification. *Women's Studies Quarterly*, 36(3 and 4), 127-143.
- Davy, Z. (2011). *Recognizing Transsexuals: Personal, Political and Medicolegal Embodiment*. Aldershot: Ashgate.
- Davy, Z., & Steinbock, E. (2011 Forthcoming). 'Sexing Up' Bodily Aesthetics: Notes towards theorizing Trans Sexuality. In S. Hines & Y. Taylor (Eds.), *Sexualities: Past Reflections and Future Directions*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Deleuze, G., & Guattari, F. (1977). *Anti-Oedipus : capitalism and schizophrenia*. New York: Viking Press.
- Deleuze, G., & Guattari, F. (1987). *A thousand plateaus: capitalism and schizophrenia*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Diamond, M. (Writer), & M. Diamond (Director) (2007). *Trans Entities: The Nasty Love of Papi and Wil*.
- Ettner, R. (2007). Transsexual Couples: A Qualitative Evaluation of Atypical Partner Preferences. *International Journal of Transgenderism*, 10(2), 109-116.
- Feinberg, L. (1992). *Transgender Liberation: A Movement Whose Time has Come*. New York: World View Forum.
- Halberstam, J. (1998). *Female masculinity*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Kaldera, R. (2006). Defying Normal. In M. Christian (Ed.), *Transgender Erotica: Trans Figures* (pp. 1-10). Binghampton: Harrington Park Press.
- Mandlis, L. R. (2011). Whose Crazy Investment in Sex. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 58, 219-236.
- Moser, C. (2011). Yet Another Paraphilia Definition Fails. *Archives Of Sexual Behavior*, 40(3), 483-485.
- Queen, C., & Schimel, L. (Eds.). (1997). *PoMoSexuals: Challenging Assumptions about Gender and Sexuality*. San Francisco: Cleis Press.
- Roen, K. (2001). "Either/Or" and "Both/Neither": Discursive Tensions in Transgender Politics. *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 27(2), 501-522.
- Rosenkrans, L. (2006). Josephine. In M. Christian (Ed.), *Transgender Erotica: Trans figures* (pp. 193-199). New York: Harrington Park Press.
- Sanger, T. (2008). Transpeople's Intimate Partnerships and the Limits of Identity Politics. In Z. Davy, J. Downes, L. Eckert, N. Gerodetti, D. Llinares & A. C. Santos (Eds.), *Bound and Unbound: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Gender and Sexualities* (pp. 58-75). Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
- Stone, S. (2006 [1991]). The Empire Strikes Back: A Posttranssexual Manifesto. In S. Stryker & S. Whittle (Eds.), *The Transgender Studies Reader* (pp. 221-235). New York: Routledge.
- Wilchins, R. A. (1997). Lines in the Sand, Cries of Desire. In C. Queen & L. Schimel (Eds.), *PoMoSexuals: Challenging Assumptions about Gender and Sexuality* (pp. 138-149). San Francisco: Cleis Press.